Park St. Bristol. Feb. 20 1852

Thank you very much, dearest Annie for your nice long interesting letter which I must not begin to answer now or I shall lose the chance of sending you the inclosed remarkable production by this mail, & in case J. Scoble's uniform courtesy to your Society induces him to forward it as a compliment you may not at once get the benefit of this fresh piece of audacity, which is undergoing an extensive circulation in England. You ought to see the combined assault on you by Campbell, Guthrie, & Scoble, to which they have been provoked by the recent showings up of their delinquencies. Mrs. Massie calls the C.'s articles raking out the cess-pools of Boston "in the vain hope that he can thereby whitewash "the American Ministers, & says he may as well "try his hand & his hammer on the Ethiopian's "skin & the leopard's spots." She is writing to Miss Grant (daughter of the Editor of the M. Advertiser who has been visiting us) & continues "It is a cause "of grief & humiliation that those most indefati-"gable in the A.S. Cause are so far from the truth "as it is in Jesus, but 2000 ministers professing "evangelical truth & still notoriously pro slavery "would be sufficient to rivet socinian doctrines "aye & infidel principles too, on the men who other-"wise might by seeing the good works of Gospel "ministers be brought to glorify God in them." I quote her as an evidence of the effect produced by these rehashings of the old stories on ultra orthodox

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mind sufficiently acquainted with facts to discern their drift. The majority deriving their sole acquaintance ~~[illegible]~~ from these sources rest in the impression that slavery is very dreadful, but that abolitionism is worse, as there is a growing impression that its tendency is to shake orthodoxy which of course I can't successfully controvert tho' it is ~~[illegible]~~ inconceivable to me why it should. (Opinions I mean not sects.) The result is to make people think & inquire however, & that is much better than stagnation here, where the question is not forced upon peoples notice except casually or by some uncommon set of circumstances. A great many well-meaning people taking a superficial view are horrified & temporarily repulsed from the cause, who would give it their hearty adhesion if there were a vehicle for enlightening them, but I have faith in that ~~will~~ being created some day, & meanwhile a vast amount of light is being thrown on the church question notwithstanding the mystifying operations of proslavery divines from whom the whole difficulty springs. Our Bristol A. S. Society, having profited so far by my twelve months instructions as to have learnt the bearing of these stratagems are bent upon disclosing them to every one else, and being extremely orthodox themselves are indignant at their churches being implicated in upholding sin & determined to show them the error of their ways, for which purpose I have been writing an address to the Evangelical churches of Great Britain, in which they are incidentally informed that the infidel charge is a pro-slavery fabrication, but exhorted to act on the presumption ~~its truth~~ of its truth, & to scold their fraternity in America for letting Christians' work be done by infidels. You shall have an early copy

of the ~~offic~~ production which we mean to send
round to all sorts of Church Unions & meetings &c
together with a document prepared by Rev Ed. Mathews
(whose name you must wish me never to teaze you
with again) showing the connection of each Am.
Church with Slavery. We want very much to
obtain fuller information of the present position
of the Free Presbyterians, Free Will Baptists, &
Wesleyan Methodists than he can furnish us
with. I believe *you* ignore all these secessions,
unless they have relinquished political action &
but our concern is with their ecclesiastical rela-
tions to slavery. And we have to get the Churches
here first to recognize the *secession principle* as
righteous, before we scrutinize too closely the
consistency of the seceders. Still we dont intend
to let anyone lower the A.S. Standard if we can
prevent it. We like the Bazaar Gazette very
much, but have had yet no opportunity of testing
the impression it produces on the uninitiated;
to us the position of the Am. Socy is very intelligibly
stated in it. & we need hardly assure you of our
perfect coincidence in your view of Kossuth's course.
Mr W. Phillips speech on Ky has enraptured us all. How
I wish you would bring him Mr Phillips here to elucidate
the British folks on the Am Socy & its mission.
You see we cant travel over the country with
its publications to prove its efficiency, or force
their substance upon ~~those~~ people who only hear of
~~them~~ it as an infidel association, so we are dependent on personal
communications. Poor Ed. Mathews (I *must*
torment you with a little more of him) says a

good word forth, ~~saying~~ in reply to catechizings resp
his sympathy with it, viz. that of course he must be
a fellow-worker with it while advocating its cardi
doctrine that "if the Churches do their duty they
w^d cease," & that when they do the Am. Soc^y. will,
according to Mr W. Phillips's assurance give up ~~the~~ its
trust. The poor man is of course ~~[illegible]~~ branded as one
of the "infidel" Garrisonians for this admission
but he keeps to his story, & is treated with no cour
tesy by the leaders of his sect. He is a most un
daunted person, nevertheless & so accustomed to the
battling that he neither loses heart or temper but
goes about to different A.S. societies trying to set th
to work on the church question. Mr G. Thompson har
monizes with him very thoroughly, & is desirous
of helping his work. Mr T. has written fully to my
Father about him since seeing him at Oxford. If w
had a dozen A.S. lecturers here a great light would
break upon the enquiring multitudes; but you
must not give English people credit for an innate lo
of freedom different from Americans; for it to
often means in both cases ~~their~~ own freedom &
their sects or their something's welfare, at the
expense of everyone else. You kept us in hot
water for a fortnight by saying you had treated the
clerical question with levity, for we felt if you
our sheet anchor had betrayed a want of reveren
for that ~~[illegible]~~ order, there was an end to our hope
of getting any but heretical sympathy for you. happily
we do not detect the dreaded symptoms, unless t
quotations from Scott may be so construed by ~~the~~
Quaker readers; to a great many others they will
simply break the connection from ~~their~~ field of
literary study not having extended far enough into the regio
of fiction to render the references intelligible. He
our own household has to plead guilty, so you may

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estimate the limited advantages in that line enjoyed
by your foreign correspondents. My time, extremely
ltd. when I took up my pen, has been robbed by
callers, & my Aunt who is with me has been
prevented by the same cause from finishing
a note to you. But L. Tappan shall not
lie on hand a week when he may be doing
himself & you such valuable service by being
in yr. possession! My Father says "he under-
stands the Am. & Foreign Society is likely to be
sent to prison for his debt," & keeps looking out
for the intelligence in each American paper.
Many thanks for that precious extract
about him (it)   We have sent Mr May a M.
Advertiser with an excellent review of R. Carpen-
ter's Letters.   Do you think Mr Garrison wd
object to alluding to E. Mathews as being hard
at work for the cause in England? If he should
I think it wd cheer the latter, & disabuse them
some of our coadjutors of the impression Mr Thompson
helped confirm that no one is recognized by Mr
G. who does not pronounce some imaginary shibboleth of
his.   Mr Grout (of the M. Adver.) has been
~~visiting~~ here for a few hours, he came & left his
daughter for my Father to cure her eyes. He gave
~~an~~ amusing account of an interview Scoble had
insisted on having with him, in wh the latter
complained of Mr G.s castigations & admitted
their justice, & said there were "private" reasons
why the B.&F.A.S. Society could not act up to its principles.

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My Father sends his kindest regards & so does my Aunt. The former has been much less of an invalid this winter than last. He would like to write to his American friends much oftener, but the act is always trying to him when long continued, & he has so many professional & other demands on his pen that he has to restrict any self-indulgences of this kind. He sends some of his English friends (of antagonists) an A. S. sermon now & then of a nature that must be bringing him into very close sympathy with you. He has had another tilt with Mr Richardson, & such a controversy with R. Charleton! & so utterly unavailing as you will see! I am making a selection from the Liberator's version of the N. Y. Meeting in 1850 to illustrate the veracity of Dr Campbell's *authorities*. Your genius in writing things for printing *outright* has filled me with an amazement so nearly allied to envy that I have to stifle it.

With much love to your mother & sisters & hoping to sending you soon a better response to your last soon

I am Very affectly yours

Mary Estlin.

My Father begs you will hand L. Tappan's statements to Mr Quincy with his kind regards, and say he thinks it is more than a year since we saw his annual account of the Emancipator Transfer.

Miss Estlin
1852

Miss A. W. Weston,
Weymouth
near Boston
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